

REMARKS

Claims 1-59 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 44 and 48 are currently amended. Claims 2-20, 22-23, 45-47 and 49-51 are original. Claims 21, 24-43 and 52-59 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-20, 22-40, 42, 43, 48-51, 54 and 57-59 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 3,572,462 to Gray (referred to herein after as "Gray") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,020,919 to Broding (referred to herein after as "Broding"). Claims 44-47 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gray in view of Broding and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,953,829 to Boyle (referred to herein after as "Boyle").

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that claims 53, 55 and 56 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant amends independent claims 1, 44 and 48 to include the limitations of now canceled claims 53, 55 and 56, respectively. Thus, Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of amended independent claims 1, 44 and 48. Claims 2-20, 22-23, 45-47 and 49-51 depend on amended independent claims 1, 44 and 48, and add further limitation thereto. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of these claims, too.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Application No. 10/713935
Amendment dated December 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 25, 2006

Docket No.: BBNT-P01-084

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response other than as reflected on the enclosed Amendment Transmittal. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-084 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Edward A. Gordon

Registration No.: 54,130

ROPES & GRAY LLP

One International Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624

(617) 951-7000

(617) 951-7050 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant